

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) An audio processing apparatus, comprising:
a second obtaining section for obtaining a second audio signal from a second source;
a third obtaining section for obtaining a third audio signal from a third source, the third audio signal having a volume level different from that of the second audio signal; and
an output control section for selectively switching between the second audio signal obtained at the second obtaining section and the third audio signal obtained at the third obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker,
wherein when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from a sound based on the third audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the third audio signal, passes through a mute state, and subsequently starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal.

17. (Previously Presented) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the third source is a reproduction only medium.

18. (Previously Presented) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the third audio signal has a smaller volume level than the second audio signal.

19. (Previously Presented) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a first obtaining section for obtaining a first audio signal from a first source, the first audio signal having the same volume level as the second audio signal,
wherein

the output control section selectively switches among the second audio signal obtained at the second obtaining section, the third audio signal obtained at the third obtaining section, and

the first audio signal obtained at the first obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker; and

when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from the sound based on the first audio signal to the sound based on, the second audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the first audio signal and subsequently starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal,

20. (Previously Presented) An audio processing apparatus, comprising:

a second obtaining section for obtaining a second audio signal from a second source;

a third obtaining section for obtaining a third audio signal from a third source, the third audio signal having a volume level different from that of the second audio signal;

an output control section for selectively between switching the second audio signal obtained at the second obtaining section and the third audio signal obtained at the third obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker; and

an operation detecting section for detecting an operation of a user,
wherein

when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from a sound based on the third audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the third audio signal when an operation of the user is detected by the operation detecting section while the sound based on the third audio signal is being output, transfers to a mute state, and

the output control section transfers from the mute state and starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal when the operation of the user is detected by the operation detecting section subsequent to the mute state.

21. (Previously Presented) An audio processing method of an audio processing apparatus, comprising:

a second step of the audio processing apparatus obtaining a third audio signal from a third source to output a sound based on the obtained third audio signal to a speaker;

a third step of the audio processing apparatus completing the output of the sound based on the third audio signal and transferring the output from the speaker to a muting state when

receiving an operation of a user after the sound based on the third audio signal is output; and

a first step of obtaining a second audio signal from a second source, the second audio signal having a volume level different from that of the third audio signal, a sound based on the second audio signal being output from the speaker when receiving an operation from the user subsequent to the muting state.

22. (Previously Presented) The audio processing method according to claim 21, wherein the third source is a reproduction only medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The audio processing method according to claim 21, wherein the third audio signal has a smaller volume level than the second audio signal.

24. (New) An audio processing apparatus, comprising;

- a second obtaining section for obtaining a second audio signal from a second source;
- a third obtaining section for obtaining a third audio signal from a third source, the third audio signal having a volume level different from that of the second audio signal; and
- an output control section for selectively switching between the second audio signal obtained at the second obtaining section and the third audio signal obtained at the third obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker,

wherein

- when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from a sound based on the third audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal,
- if the second source is a reproduction-only medium, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the third audio signal, passes through a mute state, and subsequently starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal,
- else, if the second source is not the reproduction-only medium, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the third audio signal and starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal without passing through the mute state.